

COMPUTER POSTAGE AND MAILING TRACKING LABELS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related to: co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/975,532, filed October 10, 2001, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING COMPUTER-BASED POSTAGE STAMPS," which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/239,424, filed Oct. 10, 2000, entitled "A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING COMPUTER BASED POSTAGE STAMPS"; U.S. Patent Application No. 09/905,329, filed July 13, 2001, entitled "WEB-ENABLED VALUE BEARING ITEM PRINTING"; U.S. Patent Application No. 09/585,025, filed June 1, 2000 and entitled "ON-LINE VALUE BEARING ITEM PRINTING"; and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/197,044, entitled "GENERIC VALUE BEARING ITEM LABELS", filed July 16, 2002, all of which have been, or will be, commonly assigned, the entire contents and disclosures of all of which are hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes as if fully set forth herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The field of the present invention is labels, and more particularly, a special purpose label arrangement for use with Mail Piece Tracking.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

CONFIRM® service is a product offered by the United States Postal Service (USPS). U.S. Postal Service Publication 197 ("Publication 197") describes in detail various aspects of the CONFIRM® service and CONFIRM® service interfaces; Publication 197 is incorporated by reference in full herein for all purposes as if fully stated herein.

CONFIRM® is a mail tracking service of PLANET™ Codes that provides electronic tracking information to USPS customers about their First-Class, Standard letter-size, flat mail and periodicals. CONFIRM® provides advance

1 delivery information about incoming hard-copy reply mail ("Origin CONFIRM")
2 and outbound mail ("Destination CONFIRM").

3 In order to track mail, CONFIRM® uses a combination of two tracking
4 numbers: a 5- or 11-digit POSTNET (POStal Numeric Encoding Technique)
5 Code and a 12- or 14-digit PLANET™ Code. The POSTNET and PLANET™
6 Codes must be encoded as a barcode and applied to the mail piece.

7 As each mail piece progresses through to its destination, the CONFIRM®
8 barcode on each mail piece is scanned at the different USPS processing facilities
9 through which it passes. Electronic information for each scan is captured and is
10 sent to a centralized network service, which collects the scan data and packages
11 it for use by USPS customers. The electronic scan information is then
12 electronically transferred from the centralized network and is made available in
13 two ways: through accessing a PLANET™ Codes website or via transmission of
14 electronic files sent to subscribing USPS customers.

15 A POSTNET Code identifies a particular delivery address. A PLANET™
16 Code identifies a particular CONFIRM® Subscriber's mailing.

17 The United States Postal Service (USPS) provides the Information Based
18 Indicia Program (IBIP.) The IBIP facilitates PC-based (Personal Computer
19 based) Postage, also sometimes referred to as computer-based, or Internet-
20 based, Postage. With PC Postage, a user can purchase postage credit, and
21 print the postage in the form of PC Postage onto a label or directly onto a mail
22 piece. A PC Postage label provides a human-readable portion and a 2-
23 dimensional barcode portion. The human-readable portion includes the postage
24 value, mail class, the date, and optionally a logo. The barcode portion is intended
25 to help thwart fraud, and includes information about the mail piece including the
26 destination ZIP code, the amount of postage applied, the date and time the
27 postage was applied, and a digital signature so that the USPS can validate the
28 authenticity of the postage.

29 In one exemplary embodiment of PC Postage, a user subscribes to a third
30 party Internet postage provider, such as, for example, Stamps.com (of Santa

1 Monica, Calif.), and by using postage software made available by the Internet
2 postage provider, postage value can be downloaded to the user's computer. The
3 user can then print the postage indicia, by an ordinary laser or ink jet printer,
4 directly onto the mail piece itself (e.g., onto business envelopes), onto a label to
5 be applied to the mail piece, or alternately on an insert that can be placed into a
6 window envelope so that it will show through a window envelope. Such postage
7 software preferably works in conjunction with other software programs, such as
8 word processing, accounting, database, and contact management software to
9 allow a user to conveniently print PC Postage at the same time that addressee
10 and bar code information is printed, and, in some cases of envelope printing, at
11 the same time as the sender's return address is printed.

12 An example of a computer-based postage system is a software-based,
13 online postage system described in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/163,993 filed
14 on Sep. 29, 1998, by Mohan Ananda, entitled "On Line Postage System," the
15 contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in full. The
16 online postage system software comprises user code, also sometimes referred to
17 as client software, that resides on a client system, and controller code, also
18 sometimes referred to as server software, that resides on a server system. An
19 exemplary on-line postage system may comprise a user system electronically
20 connected to a server system, which in turn is connected to a USPS system. The
21 server system is preferably capable of communicating with one or more client
22 systems simultaneously.

23 In order to facilitate mail handling and optical reading equipment
24 processing of mail by the USPS and to properly interpret PC Postage, addressee
25 information, and CONFIRM® tracking information, postage indicia and related
26 labels need to be applied according to USPS guidelines. USPS guidelines
27 directed to the margins, label sizes, and placement of Postage Indicia, and the
28 size, placement, and other characteristics of POSTNET and PLANET™ bar
29 codes, and any facing identification mark (FIM) on mail pieces are described in
30 the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) and Title 39, Code of Federal Register (CFR),

1 Part 111, the contents of which are incorporated by reference in full herein for all
2 purposes.

3 There are various laser and ink jet printers available for use, such as, for
4 example, in conjunction with computers. Many home, office and small laser and
5 ink jet printers are designed to accept sheets having a maximum width of 21.59
6 cm (8.5 inches), or in the case of wide format printers, about 27.94 cm (11
7 inches.) However, because many home and office printers are of the 21.59 cm
8 (8.5 inches) variety, many self-adhesive label sheets have a width of 21.59 cm
9 (8.5 inches) or less.

10 A label arrangement is needed for use with computer-based Postage
11 systems and computer printer printable labels for use with computer-based
12 Postage systems to facilitate Mail Piece Tracking. Further, a method is needed
13 for printing a special purpose label arrangement that has a label portion adapted
14 to be printed with postage indicia, a label portion adapted to be printed with a first
15 one-dimensional barcode representing mailing identification information, in some
16 embodiments, a second one-dimensional barcode representing delivery address
17 information, and in some embodiments, a label portion adapted to be printed with
18 a delivery address.

20 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

21 The present invention provides special purpose label arrangement sets for
22 use with computer-based postage systems to facilitate mailing tracking, and
23 sheets of such label arrangement sets, and methods for printing such label
24 arrangement sets.

25 A first exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a
26 computer printer printable self-adhesive label set for use with a computer
27 postage system, the label set comprising: a postage indicia label, wherein the
28 postage indicia label is adapted to be printed with postage indicia; and an
29 addressee label, wherein the addressee label is adapted to be printed with a
30 delivery address, a first graphic symbology, such as a first barcode, representing

1 mailing identification information, and a second graphic symbology, such as a
2 second barcode, representing delivery address information.

3 One exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a sheet of a
4 plurality of computer printer printable self-adhesive label sets for use with a
5 computer postage system, the sheet comprising: at least one self-adhesive label
6 arrangement set, wherein each label arrangement set comprising: a postage
7 indicia label, wherein the postage indicia label is adapted to be printed with
8 postage indicia; and an addressee label, wherein the addressee label is adapted
9 to be printed with a delivery address, a first graphic symbology, such as a first
10 barcode, representing mailing identification information, and a second graphic
11 symbology, such as a second barcode, representing delivery address
12 information.

13 A second exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a
14 computer printer printable self-adhesive label set for use with a computer
15 postage system, the label set comprising: a postage indicia label, wherein the
16 postage indicia label is adapted to be printed with postage indicia; a first barcode
17 label, wherein the first barcode label is adapted to be printed with a first graphic
18 symbology, such as a first barcode, representing either mailing identification
19 information or delivery address information. In the second exemplary
20 embodiment, a second barcode label is provided wherein the second barcode
21 label is adapted to be printed with a second graphic symbology, such as a
22 second barcode, representing the other of either mailing identification information
23 or delivery address information.

24 One exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a sheet of a
25 plurality of computer printer printable self-adhesive label sets for use with a
26 computer postage system, the sheet comprising: at least one self-adhesive label
27 arrangement set, wherein each label arrangement set comprising: a postage
28 indicia label, wherein the postage indicia label is adapted to be printed with
29 postage indicia; and a first barcode label, wherein the first barcode label is

1 adapted to be printed with a first graphic symbology, such as a first barcode,
2 representing mailing identification information.

3 One exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a method
4 for printing postage indicia and mail piece tracking information onto a single
5 sheet of self-adhesive labels containing at least one self-adhesive label
6 arrangement set, the method comprising: directing a computer postage system to
7 print postage indicia on a postage indicia label of one of the self-adhesive label
8 arrangement sets; and directing the computer postage system to print a first
9 graphic symbology, such as a first barcode, representing mail piece tracking
10 information on a first barcode label of the self-adhesive label arrangement set.

11 Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a
12 method for printing postage indicia and mailing tracking information onto a label
13 arrangement set on a single sheet of self-adhesive labels, the method
14 comprising: directing a computer postage system to print postage indicia on a
15 first label of the label arrangement set wherein the first label of the label
16 arrangement set is adapted to be printed with postage indicia; and directing the
17 computer postage system to print a first graphic symbology on a second label of
18 the label arrangement set, wherein the first graphic symbology represents
19 mailing tracking information and wherein the second label of the label
20 arrangement set is adapted to be printed with at least one graphic symbology
21 representing mailing tracking information.

22 23 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

24 These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present
25 invention will become better understood with regard to the following description,
26 appended claims, and accompanying drawings in which:

27 FIG. 1 is a plan view of a first exemplary computer printer printable self-
28 adhesive label arrangement set for use with a computer postage system in an
29 exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

1 FIG. 2 is a plan view of a first alternative configuration of the first
2 exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement set for use
3 with a computer postage system in an exemplary embodiment of the present
4 invention;

5 FIG. 3A is a plan view of an exemplary sheet of a plurality of first
6 exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement sets for
7 use with a computer postage system in an exemplary embodiment of the present
8 invention;

9 FIG. 3B is a plan view of a sheet on which is disposed a plurality of an
10 alternative configuration of first exemplary computer printer printable self-
11 adhesive label arrangement sets for use with a computer postage system in an
12 exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

13 FIG. 3C is a plan view of a sheet on which is disposed a plurality of further
14 alternative configuration of first exemplary computer printer printable self-
15 adhesive label arrangement sets for use with a computer postage system in an
16 exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

17 FIG. 4 is a plan view of a further alternative configuration of first exemplary
18 computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement sets for use with a
19 computer postage system in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

20 FIG. 5 is a plan view of another alternative configuration of first exemplary
21 computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement sets for use with a
22 computer postage system in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

23 FIG. 6 is a plan view of a sheet on which is disposed a plurality of another
24 alternative configuration of first exemplary computer printer printable self-
25 adhesive label arrangement sets for use with a computer postage system in an
26 exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

27 FIG. 7A is a plan view of a second exemplary computer printer printable
28 self-adhesive label arrangement set for use with a computer postage system in
29 an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

1 FIG. 7B is a plan view of an exemplary sheet of a plurality of an alternative
2 configuration of second exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
3 arrangement sets for use with a computer postage system in an exemplary
4 embodiment of the present invention;

5 FIG. 7C is a plan view of a sheet of a plurality of a further alternative
6 configuration of second exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
7 arrangement sets for use with a computer postage system in an exemplary
8 embodiment of the present invention;

9 FIGS. 8 through 11 are plan views of various alternative configurations of
10 a second exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement
11 set for use with a computer postage system in an exemplary embodiment of the
12 present invention;

13 FIGS. 12 through 16 are plan views of various alternative configurations of
14 a third exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement set
15 for use with a computer postage system in an exemplary embodiment of the
16 present invention;

17 FIG. 17 is a plan view of a sheet of a plurality of an alternative
18 configuration of third exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
19 arrangement sets for use with a computer postage system in an exemplary
20 embodiment of the present invention; and

21 FIG. 18 is a plan view of a sheet of a plurality of a further alternative
22 configuration of third exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
23 arrangement sets for use with a computer postage system in an exemplary
24 embodiment of the present invention.

25
26 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

27 FIG. 1 is a plan view of a first exemplary computer printer printable self-
28 adhesive label arrangement set 12 for use with a computer postage system in an
29 exemplary embodiment of the present invention. As depicted in FIG. 1, each first

1 exemplary label arrangement set 12 includes a first label 14 and a second label
2 16.

3 As depicted in FIG. 1, first label 14 of the first exemplary computer printer
4 printable self-adhesive label arrangement set 12 is to the left of second label 16.
5 It will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art that in an alternative
6 embodiment, the order of first label 14 and second label 16 could be reversed,
7 such as is depicted in FIG. 2, so that first label 14 of label arrangement set 12' is
8 to the right of second label 16.

9 In the first exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
10 arrangement set 12 as depicted in FIG. 1, the first label 14 is a postage indicia
11 label. Postage indicia label 14 has a top edge 14a, a bottom edge 14b, a right
12 edge 14c, and a left edge 14d. Postage indicia label 14 has a width 18 and a
13 height 20. In the first exemplary embodiment, width 18 measures approximately
14 1.25 inches; height 20 measures approximately 1.75 inches. Postage indicia
15 label 14 is adapted to be printed with postage indicia. Postage indicia label 14
16 provides three sections 31, 32, and 33.

17 It will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art that the
18 measurements given herein of exemplary labels are themselves illustrative and
19 non-limiting; other dimensions could be used without departing from the spirit of
20 the invention.

21 When the first exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
22 arrangement set 12 depicted in FIG. 1 is used for printing postage indicia on
23 secured labels wherein each postage indicia label has a pre-assigned serial
24 number, a serial number may be printed on the label stock at the time the
25 postage indicia is printed; the at-print-time serial number would be printed as a
26 record of the printing.

27 Depending on the configuration of a plurality of label arrangement set 12,
28 the serial number would typically be printed on the label stock that is not part of
29 the postage indicia label or other label in the label arrangement set 12, either
30 above, below or to the side of the postage indicia label 14. In some cases,

1 depending on the configuration of the plurality of label arrangement set 12, the
2 serial number may be printed according to an orientation that differs from the
3 orientation of the postage indicia label 14. For example, in FIG. 3A, spaces 113-
4 1, 113-2 and 113-3 would be adapted for printing a serial number record in
5 landscape orientation as compared to the postage indicia labels 14-1, 14-2 and
6 14-3 which would be adapted for printing postage indicia in a portrait orientation.

7 It will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art that
8 placement of space reservation for serial number record printing can be varied
9 without departing from the spirit of the invention.

10 Returning with reference to FIG. 1, postage indicia label section 31 (below
11 line 19-19 and to the right of line 21-21) is adapted to be printed with a two-
12 dimensional postage indicia barcode. In an exemplary postage indicia label
13 embodiment, an exemplary two-dimensional postage indicia barcode comprises
14 information about the mail piece such as, for example, the destination ZIP code,
15 the amount of postage applied, the date and time the postage was applied, and a
16 digital signature so that the USPS can validate the authenticity of the postage.

17 It will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art that the
18 description herein of embodiments of the invention regarding one-dimensional
19 and two-dimensional barcodes is non-limiting and illustrative; one-dimensional
20 and two-dimensional barcodes are exemplary graphic symbologies; graphic
21 symbologies other than those described herein could be used with the invention.

22 As a further non-limiting example, embodiments herein describing a one-
23 dimensional barcode representing mailing identification information could use
24 instead a two-dimensional graphic symbology to represent mailing information
25 without departing from the spirit of the invention. It will be understood by
26 someone with ordinary skill in the art that the terms "barcode" and "bar code" are
27 sometimes used, as those terms are used herein, in a general sense as referring
28 to graphic symbologies in bar, matrix, or various other forms. The terms barcode,
29 bar code and graphic symbology (in the singular or plural) are used
30 interchangeably herein.

1 Postage indicia label section 32 (to the left of line 21-21) is adapted to be
2 printed with a serial number. In an exemplary postage indicia label embodiment,
3 an exemplary serial number is printable in a landscape orientation.

4 Postage indicia label section 33 (above line 19-19 and to the right of line
5 21-21) is adapted to be printed with a human-readable portion. In an exemplary
6 postage indicia label embodiment, an exemplary human-readable portion
7 comprises a human-readable postage value, a human-readable mail class, a
8 human-readable date, and optionally a visual logo.

9 The second label 16 is an addressee label. Addressee label 16 has a top
10 edge 16a, a bottom edge 16b, a right edge 16c and a left edge 16d. In an
11 exemplary addressee label embodiment, the left edge 16d of addressee label 16
12 is separated from the right edge 14c of postage indicia label 14 by a width 38
13 measuring approximately 1/8 inch. It will be understood by someone with
14 ordinary skill in the art that, in alternative embodiments, the two labels 14 and 16
15 could abut each other; a single micro-perforated line separating the two labels 14
16 and 16 from each other.

17 The addressee label 16 is adapted to be printed with a human-readable
18 delivery address, a first one-dimensional barcode representing mailing
19 identification information, and a second one-dimensional barcode representing
20 delivery address information. Addressee label 16 has a width 22 and a height
21 24. In the first exemplary embodiment, width 22 measures approximately 4
22 inches; height 24 measures approximately 1.75 inches. The addressee label 16
23 provides three sections 35, 36, and 37.

24 The first addressee label section 35, which is below line 17-17, is adapted
25 for printing a one-dimensional barcode comprising one of a one-dimensional
26 barcode representing mailing identification information, such as a one-
27 dimensional barcode representation of a PLANET™ code, or a one-dimensional
28 barcode representing delivery address information, such as a one-dimensional
29 barcode representation of a POSTNET code. First addressee label section 35

1 has a height 30. In the first exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive
2 label arrangement set 12, height 30 measures approximately 0.3 inch.

3 The second addressee label section 36, which is above line 15-15, is
4 adapted for printing a one-dimensional barcode comprising the other of a one-
5 dimensional barcode representation of a PLANET™ code or a one-dimensional
6 barcode representation of a POSTNET code. Second addressee label section
7 36 has a height 26. In the first exemplary computer printer printable self-
8 adhesive label arrangement set 12, height 26 measures approximately 0.3 inch.

9 The third addressee label section 37, which is above line 17-17, and
10 below line 15-15, is adapted for printing a human-readable delivery address.
11 Third addressee label section 37 has a height 28. In the first exemplary
12 computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement set 12, height 28
13 measures approximately 1.15 inches.

14 As will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art, dashed
15 lines such as 15-15, 17-17, 19-19, and 21-21 are depicted in the drawings here
16 but are not evident on the actual labels.

17 In an alternative embodiment, no postage indicia label is provided, only a
18 delivery address label 16 would be provided, and would be adapted to be printed
19 with a human-readable delivery address, a first one-dimensional barcode
20 representing mailing identification information, and a second one-dimensional
21 barcode representing delivery address information as described above.

22 As will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art, a plurality
23 of the first exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement
24 set 12 depicted in FIG. 1 may be arranged in various possible ways on a sheet of
25 arrangement sets. An exemplary sheet 100 comprising a plurality of first
26 exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement sets 12-1
27 through 12-3 is depicted in FIG. 3A. Exemplary sheet 100 has a width 111 that
28 measures 8.5 inches and a height 112 that measures 11 inches.

29 The construction of a sheet 100 of self-adhesive labels is conventional in
30 that sheet 100 provides a top printable layer 141. On the back 142 of the top

1 printable layer 141, adhesive material is provided covering the entire back 142.
2 Exemplary sheet 100 further provides a backing sheet 140 with low adhesion.
3 The low adhesion of backing sheet 140 facilitates removal of a set, e.g., set 12-1
4 of labels 14-1 and 16-1 from sheet 100 so that the labels 14-1 and 16-1 can then
5 be permanently attached to a mailing piece (not shown).

6 Each label, e.g., 14-1 and 16-1, provide a corresponding perimeter, 101-1
7 and 102-1, respectively. As will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in
8 the art, the perimeter, e.g., 101-1 and 102-1, of each label, 14-1 and 16-1,
9 respectively, is formed, such as by, e.g., micro-perforations, that pierce the top
10 printable layer 141, but not the backing sheet 140.

11 Label sets 12, and 12-1 through 12-3, depicted in FIGS. 1 through 3A are
12 depicted in portrait orientation respective to the sections adapted to be printed
13 with human readable text, such as postage indicia label section 33 and delivery
14 address label section 37. It will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in
15 the art that landscape orientation of the label sets 12" and 12'", such as depicted
16 in FIGS. 4 and 5, respectively, are also possible. FIG. 6 depicts an exemplary
17 alternative arrangement of label sets 12-1" through 12-6" in which each label set
18 12-1" through 12-6" is provided in landscape orientation respective to the
19 sections adapted to be printed with human readable text, such as postage indicia
20 label section 33 and delivery address label section 37. FIGS. 3B and 3C depict
21 plan views of further alternative arrangement label sets 12"" and 12''',
22 respectively. In alternative arrangement label sets 12"" and 12''', postage indicia
23 labels, e.g., 14-1, are adapted to be printed in landscape orientation relative to
24 portrait orientation of delivery address labels, e.g., 16-1. In alternative
25 arrangement label set 12"" depicted in FIG. 3B, postage indicia label, e.g., 14-6,
26 with reference to portrait orientation of sheet 100, is provided above delivery
27 address label, e.g., 16-6, of the set. In alternative arrangement label set 12'''
28 depicted in FIG. 3C, postage indicia label, e.g., 14-6, with reference to portrait
29 orientation of sheet 100, is provided below delivery address label, e.g., 16-6, of
30 the set.

1 In one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a method for
2 printing postage indicia and mail piece tracking information onto a single sheet of
3 self-adhesive labels containing at least one self-adhesive label arrangement set
4 is provided. In the exemplary method, a computer postage system is directed to
5 print postage indicia on a postage indicia label of one of the self-adhesive label
6 arrangement sets. The computer postage system is further directed to print a
7 first one-dimensional barcode representing mail piece tracking information on a
8 first one-dimensional barcode label of the self-adhesive label arrangement set.

9 In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a method is
10 provided for printing postage indicia and mailing tracking information onto a label
11 arrangement set on a single sheet of self-adhesive labels. In this method, a
12 computer postage system is directed to print postage indicia on a first label of the
13 label arrangement set wherein the first label of the label arrangement set is
14 adapted to be printed with postage indicia. The computer postage system is
15 further directed to print a first graphic symbology on a second label of the label
16 arrangement set, wherein the first graphic symbology represents mailing tracking
17 information and wherein the second label of the label arrangement set is adapted
18 to be printed with at least one graphic symbology representing mailing tracking
19 information.

20 FIG. 7A is a plan view of a second exemplary computer printer printable
21 self-adhesive label arrangement set 112 for use with a computer postage system
22 in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. As depicted in FIG. 7A,
23 each second exemplary label arrangement set 112 includes a first label 14, a
24 second label 135, and a third label 136. Optionally, label arrangement set 112
25 could include a fourth label 150.

26 As depicted in FIG. 7A, first label 14 of the second exemplary computer
27 printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement set 112 is to the left of second
28 and third labels 135 and 136, respectively. It will be understood by someone with
29 ordinary skill in the art that in an alternative embodiment, the order of first label
30 14 on the one hand, and second and third labels 135 and 136, respectively (and

1 optionally, fourth label 150) on the other hand, could be reversed, such as is
2 depicted in FIG. 8, so that first label 14 of label arrangement set 112' is to the
3 right of second and third labels 135 and 136 respectively (and optionally, fourth
4 label 150).

5 In the second exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
6 arrangement set 112 as depicted in FIG. 7A, first label 14 is a postage indicia
7 label. Postage indicia label 14 has a top edge 14a, a bottom edge 14b, a right
8 edge 14c, and a left edge 14d. Postage indicia label 14 depicted in FIG. 7A
9 shares the same features as postage indicia label 14 described above with
10 respect to the first exemplary embodiment and depicted in, e.g., FIG. 1.
11 Accordingly, postage indicia label 14 is not further described with respect to the
12 second exemplary embodiment.

13 In the second exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
14 arrangement set 112 as depicted in FIG. 7A, second label 135 is a one-
15 dimensional barcode label. One-dimensional barcode label 135 is adapted to be
16 printed with a first one-dimensional barcode representing either mailing
17 identification information, such as a PLANET™ code, or delivery address
18 information, such as a POSTNET code. One-dimensional barcode label 135 has
19 a top edge 135a, a bottom edge 135b, a right edge 135c, and a left edge 135d.
20 One-dimensional barcode label 135 has a width 222 and a height 130. In the
21 second exemplary embodiment, the width 222 of one-dimensional barcode label
22 135 measures approximately 2.875 inches; height 130 measures approximately
23 0.3 inch.

24 In the second exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
25 arrangement set 112 as depicted in FIG. 7A, third label 136 is a one dimensional
26 barcode label. One-dimensional barcode label 136 is adapted to be printed with
27 a second one-dimensional barcode representing the other of either mailing
28 identification information, such as a PLANET™ code, or delivery address
29 information, such as a POSTNET code. One-dimensional barcode label 136 has
30 a top edge 136a, a bottom edge 136b, a right edge 136c, and a left edge 136d.

1 One-dimensional barcode label 136 has a width 222 and a height 126. In the
2 second exemplary embodiment, the width 222 of one-dimensional barcode label
3 136 measures approximately 2.875 inches; height 126 measures approximately
4 0.3 inch.

5 In an exemplary embodiment that includes a return address label 150,
6 optional fourth label 150 is a return address label. Optional return address label
7 150 is adapted to be printed with a return address representing the return
8 address of the mailer. Optional return address label 150 has a top edge 150a, a
9 bottom edge 150b, a right edge 150c, and a left edge 150d. Optional return
10 address label has a width 152 and a height 151. In an exemplary embodiment
11 that includes a return address label 150, the width 152 of optional return address
12 label 150 measures approximately 2 inches; height 151 measures approximately
13 1.25 inches.

14 In the second exemplary computer printer printable self-adhesive label
15 arrangement set 112 as depicted in FIG. 7A, top edge 135a of one-dimensional
16 barcode label 135 is separated from bottom edge 136b of one-dimensional
17 barcode label 136 by an expanse 128 of top printable layer (see element 141 in
18 FIG. 3A); the exemplary expanse 128 depicted in FIG. 7A measures
19 approximately 7/8 inch. In the second exemplary computer printer printable self-
20 adhesive label arrangement set 112 as depicted in FIG. 7A, if optional return
21 address label 150 is provided, it would be provided between one-dimensional
22 barcode label 135 and one-dimensional barcode label 136.

23 FIG. 7B is a plan view of a sheet 100 of a plurality of exemplary label
24 arrangement sets 112". Each exemplary label arrangement set 112" comprises:
25 a postage indicia label, e.g., 14-1, that is adapted to be printed with postage
26 indicia in portrait orientation; a first one-dimensional barcode label, e.g., 135-1,
27 that is adapted to be printed with a first one-dimensional barcode representing
28 either mailing identification information, such as a PLANET™ code, or delivery
29 address information, such as a POSTNET code in landscape orientation; and a
30 second one-dimensional barcode label, e.g., 136-1, that is adapted to be printed

1 with a second one-dimensional barcode representing the other of either mailing
2 identification information, such as a PLANET™ code, or delivery address
3 information, such as a POSTNET code, in landscape orientation; both barcode
4 labels, e.g., 135-1 and 136-1 are provided below the corresponding postage
5 indicia label, e.g., 14-1.

6 FIG. 7C is a plan view of a sheet 100 of a plurality of exemplary label
7 arrangement sets 112"". Each exemplary label arrangement set 112""
8 comprises: a postage indicia label, e.g., 14-1, that is adapted to be printed with
9 postage indicia in portrait orientation; a first one-dimensional barcode label, e.g.,
10 135-1, that is adapted to be printed with a first one-dimensional barcode
11 representing either mailing identification information, such as a PLANET™ code,
12 or delivery address information, such as a POSTNET code, in landscape
13 orientation; and a second one-dimensional barcode label, e.g., 136-1, that is
14 adapted to be printed with a second one-dimensional barcode representing the
15 other of either mailing identification information, such as a PLANET™ code, or
16 delivery address information, such as a POSTNET code, in landscape
17 orientation; both barcode labels, e.g., 135-1 and 136-1 are provided to the right
18 of the corresponding postage indicia label, e.g., 14-1.

19 It will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art that
20 alternative arrangements of one-dimensional barcode label 135, and one-
21 dimensional barcode label 136, such as, but not limited to, those alternative label
22 arrangement sets 112"-1, 112"-2 and 112"-3 depicted in FIGS. 9, 10 and 11,
23 respectively.

24 In the label arrangement set 112"-1 depicted in FIG. 9, one-dimensional
25 barcode label 135 is separated by an expanse 128' from one-dimensional
26 barcode label 136, where expanse 128' measures only approximately 1/8 inch;
27 top edge 150a of optional return address label 150, if present, would be below
28 bottom edge 135b of one-dimensional barcode label 135.

1 In the label arrangement set 112"-2 depicted in FIG. 10, bottom edge 150b
2 of optional return address label 150, if present, would be above top edge 136a of
3 one-dimensional barcode label 136.

4 In the label arrangement set 112"-3 depicted in FIG. 11, top edge 150a of
5 return address label 150 abuts bottom edge 135b of one-dimensional barcode
6 label 135; top edge 135a of one-dimensional barcode label 135 abuts bottom
7 edge 136b of one-dimensional barcode label 136; left edges 150d, 135d, and
8 136d of labels 150, 135 and 136, respectively, abut right edge 14c of postage
9 indicia label 14.

10 FIGS. 12 through 16 are a plan views of a third exemplary computer
11 printer printable self-adhesive label arrangement set 212, 212', 212"-1, 212"-2,
12 and 212"', respectively for use with a computer postage system in an exemplary
13 embodiment of the present invention. As depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16, each
14 second exemplary label arrangement set 212 (and 212', 212"-1, 212"-2, and
15 212"') includes a first label 14, and a second label 136. Optionally, label
16 arrangement set 212 (and 212', 212"-1, 212"-2, and 212"') could include a third
17 label 150.

18 In the label arrangement sets 212, 212', 212"-1, 212"-2, and 212"'"
19 depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16, first label 14 is a postage indicia label. Postage
20 indicia label 14 depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16 shares the same features as
21 postage indicia label 14 described above with respect to the first exemplary
22 embodiment and depicted in, e.g., FIG. 1. Accordingly, postage indicia label 14
23 is not further described with respect to the third exemplary embodiment.

24 In the label arrangement sets 212, 212', 212"-1, 212"-2, and 212"'"
25 depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16, second label 136 is a one-dimensional barcode
26 label 136. One-dimensional barcode label 136 depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16
27 shares the same features as one-dimensional barcode label 136 described
28 above with respect to the second exemplary embodiment and depicted in, e.g.,
29 FIG. 7A. Accordingly, one-dimensional barcode label 136 is not further
30 described with respect to the third exemplary embodiment.

1 In the label arrangement sets 212, 212', 212"-1, 212"-2, and 212""
2 depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16, optional third label 150 is a return address label
3 150. Return address label 150 depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16 shares the same
4 features as return address label 150 described above with respect to the second
5 exemplary embodiment and depicted in, e.g., FIG. 7A. Accordingly, return
6 address label 150 is not further described with respect to the third exemplary
7 embodiment.

8 In the label arrangement sets 212, 212', 212"-1, 212"-2, and 212""
9 depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16, either the top edge 150a of optional return
10 address label 150 faces the bottom edge 14b or bottom edge 150b faces the top
11 edge 14a of postage indicia label 14, as the case may be.

12 In the label arrangement sets 212, 212', 212"-1, 212"-2, and 212""
13 depicted in FIGS. 12 through 15, either the top edge 136a of one-dimensional
14 barcode label 136 faces the right edges 14c and 150c of postage indicial label 14
15 and return address label 150, respectively, or the bottom edge 136b of one-
16 dimensional barcode label 136 faces the left edges 14d and 150d of postage
17 indicial label 14 and return address label 150, respectively, as the case may be.
18 In FIG. 16, top edge 136a of one-dimensional barcode label 136 faces left edges
19 14d and 150d of postage indicial label 14 and return address label 150,
20 respectively.

21 The labels provided in label arrangement sets 212, 212', 212"-1, 212"-2,
22 and 212"" depicted in FIGS. 12 through 16, are adapted for printing only a single
23 one-dimensional barcode representing either mailing identification information,
24 such as a PLANET™ code, or delivery address information, such as a POSTNET
25 code. The orientation of the one-dimensional barcode label 136 is reversed from
26 that of the orientation of the postage indicia label 14 and the return address label
27 150. For example, in FIGS. 12 through 15, postage indicia label 14 and the
28 return address label 150 are adapted for printing postage indicia and return
29 address respectively in portrait orientation; one-dimensional barcode label 136 is
30 adapted for printing in a landscape orientation, a one-dimensional barcode

1 representing either mailing identification information, such as a PLANET™ code,
2 or delivery address information, such as a POSTNET code. In FIG. 16, postage
3 indicia label 14 and the return address label 150 are adapted for printing postage
4 indicia and return address respectively in landscape orientation; one-dimensional
5 barcode label 136 is adapted for printing in portrait orientation, a one-dimensional
6 barcode representing either mailing identification information, such as a
7 PLANET™ code, or delivery address information, such as a POSTNET code.

8 As will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art, a plurality
9 of label arrangement sets 112 and 212 (and 212', 212"-1, 212"-2, and 212''') can
10 be arranged on sheets in various configurations. For example, FIG. 17 depicts a
11 plan view of an exemplary configuration of a sheet 1000 of a plurality of label
12 arrangement sets 112"-1 (112"-1a through 112"-1i).

13 FIG. 18 is a plan view of a sheet 1000 of a plurality of exemplary label
14 arrangement sets 212'''-1 through 212'''-9. Each exemplary label arrangement
15 see, e.g., 212'''-1, comprises: a postage indicia label, e.g., 14-1, that is adapted
16 to be printed with postage indicia in landscape orientation; a first one-
17 dimensional barcode label, e.g., 136-1, that is adapted to be printed with a first
18 one-dimensional barcode representing either mailing identification information,
19 such as a PLANET™ code, or delivery address information, such as a POSTNET
20 code, in landscape orientation; and a return address label, e.g., 150-1, that is
21 adapted to be printed with a return address, in portrait orientation. In each set,
22 e.g., 212'''-1, the return address label, e.g., 150-1, is provided below the
23 corresponding postage indicia label, e.g., 14-1; the corresponding one-
24 dimensional barcode label, e.g., 136-1, is provided to the right of the
25 corresponding postage indicia label, e.g., 14-1, and corresponding return
26 address label, e.g., 150-1.

28 **FACSIMILE REPRODUCTION OF COPYRIGHT MATERIAL**

29 A portion of the disclosure of this patent document contains material which
30 is subject to copyright protection by the copyright owner, Stamps.com Inc., and

1 its successors and assigns. The copyright owner has no objection to the
2 facsimile reproduction by anyone of the patent document or the patent
3 disclosure, as it appears in the Patent and Trademark Office patent file or
4 records, but otherwise reserves all copyright rights whatsoever.
5

6 **ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS**

7 Although this invention has been described in certain specific
8 embodiments, many additional modifications and variations would be apparent to
9 those skilled in the art. It is, therefore, to be understood that this invention may
10 be practiced otherwise than as specifically described. Moreover, to those skilled
11 in the various arts, the invention itself herein will suggest solutions to other tasks
12 and adaptations for other applications. Thus, the embodiments of the invention
13 described herein should be considered in all respects as illustrative and not
14 restrictive, the scope of the invention to be determined by the appended claims
15 and their equivalents rather than the foregoing description.
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31